

BRIDLINGTON UNION.

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RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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Report for the Year 1893.

OF

WILLIAM A. WETWAN, M.R.C.S.,

(Member of the Sanitary Institute),

*Medical Officer of Health for the District.*

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# REPORT 1893.

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Bridlington Quay,

5th March, 1894.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Rural Sanitary District of Bridlington for the year 1893.

The year under consideration has not produced any startling novelties either of good or ill favour, and if I have nothing to chronicle worthy of great jubilation, neither on the other hand is there any cause for exaggerated pessimism. Without our making so much progress towards sanitary perfection as I could have wished, I am glad to be able to inform you that I note distinct evidence of improvement in many parts of the District, especially in that dwellers in its remoter parts are becoming accustomed to the sight of sanitary inspectors, and are awakening to the fact that some conditions which hitherto have been by them regarded as the natural outcome of a rural life are not absolutely unchangeable but are susceptible of improvement, and that insanitary surroundings are capable of amelioration. This is a “process” of time, and requires much persistent albeit quiet work, the results of which cannot be immediately gauged, but must remain for the future to show. In the course of the year I have traversed a great part of the District, noting much which will require your attention and which I hope shortly to bring before you.

The extreme heat and dryness of the past summer changed the chronic insufficiency of drinking-water in one part of the District, into a complete water famine—and this necessary of life had to be carted from Wold Newton to Thwing to supply the daily domestic requirements of the inhabitants of the latter place. Flamborough suffered in a similar manner



but there the supply was not so completely exhausted as in the preceding instance. This defective water supply I have before brought to your notice and would press upon you the early necessity of dealing with it in a comprehensive and effectual manner.

We have had no case of Cholera in our District and for this must be supremely thankful—at the same time continue on the watch, and be in a state of preparedness, for its appearing should there be any recrudescence of the disease in the current year. There are several parts of England where Cholera germs were deposited in 1893 and it only depends upon the sanitary condition of those places, more particularly as regards drainage and water supply, whether these germs shall remain dormant or awaken to renewed activity during the coming spring and summer.

In common with the Country generally we experienced a recurrence of Influenza, very much mitigated certainly—but still Influenza,—and I note four deaths returned as due to this cause,—two in the first quarter, one in the second and one in the fourth,—so that the disease was continuously with us throughout the year.

There were six cases of Small Pox in the District during the year—five occurring in the persons of tramps and wayfarers—and one which ended fatally from old standing disease of Urinary Bladder in an agricultural labourer resident here, all of whom with one exception were isolated in the Union Infirmary isolation wards, whilst the exception succeeded in making his way to Scarbro'.

I am glad to be able to report a marked lessening of mortality—the corrected total of deaths for 1893 being 103, as compared with 106 in 1892 and 150 in 1891. The general death-rate of the District was very low, being 12·7 per 1000 living and 6·5 below that of England and Wales; the death-rate from zymotic diseases was equally satisfactory, reaching only 0·98—whilst the deaths of infants under one year of age was in proportion of 111·1 deaths to each thousand live births, the zymotic and infantile death-rates of England and Wales being 2·47 and 159·0 respectively. These figures taken as a whole are highly satisfactory, and although liable to discount when we investigate the vital statistics of separate localities, show that generally the conditions of life and natural environment in our District are conducive to healthy life and prolonged existence. I append a table of populations as enumerated at the census in 1881 and 1891 together with the numbers of deaths from general and zymotic disease occurring in each parish for the past twelve months.

The Rural District includes 35 named Parishes, and extends roughly speaking some 22 miles by 13 miles at the broadest part; it has an area of 60,145 acres or more than 100 square miles. Several parts are 8 or 9 miles from a railway station, making the labour and time expended in journeys of investigation and inspection considerable, and should not be lost sight of in computing the value of the work done. The population estimated to the middle of 1893 is 8,084, divided amongst the three Registration Sub-districts of Rural part of Bridlington, Hunmanby and Skipsea as follows:—Bridlington 2,651, Hunmanby 3,666, and Skipsea 1,767.

Name of Parish.	Population at Census in		No of Deaths.	No of Zymotic Deaths.
	1881	1891		
Auburn ... ..	12	13		
Bessingby ... ..	80	87	1	
Carnaby ... ..	180	200	3	
Boynnton ... ..	156	128	1	
Easton ... ..	23	32		
Hilderthorpe ... ..	26	41		
Wilsthorpe ... ..	13	16		
Sewerby & Marton ...	343	331	3	
Buckton ... ..	151	141		
Flamborough ... ..	1355	1288	29	3
Bempton & Newsome	309	310	6	3
Rural Bridlington	2648	2587	43	6
Hunmanby ... ..	1351	1309	24	6
Speeton ... ..	160	151	4	1
Grindale ... ..	179	157		
Argham ... ..	39	40	1	
Rudston ... ..	604	578	9	1
Thwing ... ..	439	367		
Wold Newton ... ..	310	292	7	1
North Burton ... ..	543	425	2	
Reighton ... ..	254	252	5	
Fordon ... ..	57	38	1	
Hunmanby Sub-Dist.	3936	3609	53	9
Burton Agnes ... ..	342	321	3	
Haisthorpe .. ..	123	121	4	
Thornholme ... ..	110	115	3	
Gransmoor ... ..	84	68		
Lissett ... ..	90	105	1	
Ulrome ... ..	194	198	3	
Dringhoe, Upton and Brough ... ..	157	156		
Skipsea ... ..	398	341	2	
Barmston ... ..	198	213	3	
Fraisthorp ... ..	104	95		
Skipsea Sub-District	1800	1733	19	



## TABULAR SYNOPSIS.

Sub-District.	Estimated Population in 1893.	Births in 1893.	Deaths in 1893.	Death Rates in 1893.		
				General	Zymotic	Infantile
Rural Bridlington ...	2651	68	34	12·8	0·75	73·52
Hunmanby ... ..	3666	120	50	13·6	1·63	116·7
Skipsea ... ..	1767	46	19	10·7	nil.	152·17
Rural District ...	8084	234	103	12·7	0·98	111·2

## BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATES.

There were 234 registered births in the year 1893, against 221 in 1892 and 246 in 1891, and were as usual nearly evenly divided between males and females; the birth-rate of 28·9 for the District being 1·3 above that of the preceding year, and 1·9 below that of England and Wales for 1893. The Sub-district rates were, Bridlington 25·6, Hunmanby 32·7 and Skipsea 26·5.

## TABLE OF QUARTERS.

	1893.			1892.		
	Males	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
BRIDLINGTON SUB-DISTRICT						
1st Quarter.	4	5	9	10	14	24
2nd Quarter.	11	11	22	5	7	12
3rd Quarter.	8	15	23	16	11	27
4th Quarter.	8	6	14	8	6	14
Total	31	37	68	39	38	77
HUNMANBY SUB-DISTRICT.						
1st Quarter.	13	13	26	12	9	21
2nd Quarter.	17	19	36	13	20	33
3rd Quarter.	13	9	22	18	15	33
4th Quarter.	19	17	36	8	10	18
Total	62	58	120	51	54	105
SKIPSEA SUB-DISTRICT.						
1st Quarter.	8	4	12	6	5	11
2nd Quarter.	3	9	12	6	6	12
3rd Quarter.	5	6	11	6	6	12
4th Quarter.	9	2	11	3	1	4
Total	25	21	46	21	18	39
Totals for Sanitary District.	118	116	234	101	110	221



## DEATHS AND DEATH-RATES.

The corrected mortality for the year 1893 was 103 being 3 and 47 below the respective totals for 1892 and 1891. The sexes were again nearly evenly balanced, there being 53 males against 50 females. Hunmanby Sub-district as usual has the largest aggregation of population and the highest death rate for general and zymotic disease, whilst Skipsea with the smallest population and medium low birth-rate, shows the greatest infantile mortality.

TABLE OF QUARTERS.

1893.				1892.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
BRIDLINGTON SUB-DISTRICT						
1st Quarter.	2	3	5	2	6	8
2nd Quarter.	6	3	9	3	5	8
3rd Quarter.	7	2	9	5	4	9
4th Quarter.	5	6	11	5	4	9
Total	20	14	34	15	19	34
HUNMANBY SUB-DISTRICT.						
1st Quarter.	6	8	14	2	5	7
2nd Quarter.	4	4	8	7	11	18
3rd Quarter.	8	8	16	4	6	10
4th Quarter.	7	5	12	10	8	18
Total	25	25	50	23	30	53
SKIPSEA SUB-DISTRICT.						
1st Quarter.	3	5	8	4	1	5
2nd Quarter.	3	1	4	1	3	4
3rd Quarter.	1	3	4	3	4	7
4th Quarter.	1	2	3	3	0	3
Total	8	11	19	11	8	19
Totals for Sanitary District.	53	50	103	49	57	106

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following Table is a comprehensive one and includes particulars of each death as regards disease, age, sex, locality and period of year.

DISEASE:—Diarrhœa, Enteric Fever, Scarlatina and Diphtheria, are this year responsible for 8 deaths and are at the low rate of 0·98 per 1000. Two of these deaths belonged to Bridlington Sub-district and the remainder to Hunmanby. Of the four deaths from Influenza, three belonged to Bridlington and one to Hunmanby, Skipsea having no death in this group. Five of these eight cases occurred in the third quarter, one

in the second, and two in the fourth. The mortality from Influenza was recorded in the first, second, and fourth quarters. There is very little difference in the totals for Pulmonary affections, Diseases of the Heart, Brain and Nervous Systems—the greatest disparity between the year under consideration and its immediate precursor being in the number of inquests, and this is accounted for by the fatal effects of the disastrous gales which raged along our coast line in October and November and swept many unfortunate

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGE.						Registration Sub-District.			Sex.		Quarter of Year.				Total.
	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5.	From 5 to 15.	From 15 to 25.	From 25 to 60.	From 60 upwards.	Bridlington.	Humanby.	Skipsea.	Males.	Females.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	
Zymotic Diseases. { Diarrhoea Enteric Fever Scarlet Fever Diphtheria Influenza Rheumatic Fever Croup and Aphtha Cancer, Gangrene, &c.. Phthisis Pulmonalis Convulsions Apoplexy and Paralysis Disease of Heart Bronchitis and Pneumonia Disease of Liver Stomach & Bwls Disease of Kidneys & Bladder Marasmus Premature Birth and Teething Natural Decay Inquests } Natural Causes } Traumatic Causes ..	26	6	2	6	27	48	43	53	19	66	49	30	19	30	36	115
	3	..	1	..	..	2	2	3	..	3	2	..	1	4	..	5
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sailors to a watery grave—no fewer than twelve of the entries under the heading “Traumatic Causes” being cases of drowning.

AGE:—There were 26 deaths of children under one year of age, being 2 less than in 1892, and are chiefly accounted for by Convulsions, Wasting and Premature Birth. There were 27 deaths betwixt the ages of 25 and 60 against 21 last year, and 48 of persons aged 60 and upwards against 36 for 1892—the excess being mostly made up of those “Found drowned.”

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT.

I received 11 certificates of Notification under this Act during the year 1893, or just half the total for 1892, relating to Diphtheria 2, Enteric Fever 8, Scarlet Fever 1.

The Diphtheria was at Rudston and Wold Newton, and the first-named case ended fatally. I was unable to draw any satisfactory conclusion as to its origin.

Of the 8 cases of Enteric Fever, 1 was at Carnaby and the remainder at Hunmanby village. All these last 7 cases occurred in or very close to houses where the disease had previously been, and in all there was free intercourse between the occupants to the extent in one or two instances of taking meals in common. The insanitary condition of the premises I have before brought to your notice. The fatal case of Scarlatina at Speeton occurred in an isolated house, and there was no immediate connection between this and any preceding case to be discovered, but I believe there were several suspicious cases of Sore Throat in the village about the same time.

### CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT, 1886.

I am glad to find by Inspector Oke's Report that an addition of 19 has been made to the list of registered Cowkeepers—the total being now 27—a number which I think may even yet be considerably enlarged by a little judicious enquiry in various of the larger villages. The next step is to have each place properly surveyed and measured, and the particulars entered in the Inspector's Register, and his periodical visits and the condition of the premises at such visits be shown in his Journal, so that a fairly correct estimate of the sanitary potentialities of the milk-selling business may be always readily obtainable.

### SANITATION.

About the middle of the second quarter of the year Mr. James Stephenson resigned his office of Inspector of Nuisances, and you appointed Mr. R. J. Oke to succeed him. I am glad to be able to report that so far I have found Mr. Oke to be a careful and painstaking officer.

SKIPSEA.—There is no public water supply here—the drinking water used being mostly drawn from shallow wells, sunk in many cases much too close to garden ground and cesspools and other domestic offices. Middensteads, piggeries &c., are generally too near dwellings. I observe here a peculiar and distinctively unsatisfactory method of disposal of slopwater—a drain made of 4-in. or 6-in agricultural pipes is carried a few inches



below the surface of the ground, along the back of a row of houses—opposite each back door, distant some three feet, and intercepting this pipe is a square hole of about 16 inches square and cube, made of open brick-work into which is poured the slopwater from each house—the cover is a loose wooden one—the drain of course only removes the upper layer of fluid—in one case I noticed a piggery draining into one of these miniature cesspools—the ultimate ending is generally an open ditch on the road side—and as the provision for removing storm water is not at all what it should be, the collections of fluid by the street side are frequent and noisome. There are some other little peculiarities to which I must draw your attention at an early date.

ULROME.—Although much smaller than Skipsea many of the sanitary deficiencies noted there are to be found in Ulrome, together with some peculiar to itself,—especially in the placing of big cesspools for the reception of farm-yard sewage in the open roadway and within 30 feet of other dwellings—there is a deficient supply of water for domestic purposes, and a lack of drainage.

LISSETT.—This place is in rather better condition than Ulrome and Skipsea, but here also the surface drainage requires attention. The same holds good of Rudston.

THWING.—During the recent hot summer the public well 270 feet deep, sunk into the chalk stratum, ran dry and water had to be carted from Wold Newton to supply the daily requirements of the inhabitants. I have therefore to suggest that a deep well and boring be sunk in some more likely site. With the exception of the water supply I have little to complain of in the condition of this village.

WOLD NEWTON.—The drainage here requires attention. There is no provision for the removal of slop water and very little for storm water beyond the fall of the ground—most of the houses have to carry slop water into the garden and throw it on the soil—at the same time the irregular contour of the ground on which the village stands will make it rather more difficult to carry out at a moderate expence.

HUNMANBY.—I have on several occasions drawn your attention to this village—much of the house property is in a deplorably insanitary condition—drainage is worse than none at all—basements damp—large collections of excrementitious matter, either in simple heaps or fermenting in filthy broken down ashpits—privies which comply neither with the demands of decency nor health—all crowded on to the dwelling house. A proper system of scavenging is urgently required and the drainage scheme which has now been before you for over two years should be pressed forward without intermission. Until this primary matter is settled very little can be done effectually to cleanse the place, and zymotic disease will continue endemic in the village.

The water supply is open to grave objections—one public well being situated on the very edge of the grave-yard and another receives percolations from a small fold-yard.

FLAMBOROUGH has been very healthy through the year, and zymotic mischief entirely absent. The Mere was entirely without water in the



summer—its site exhaling very offensive odours until dried by the sun and its organic constituents oxydised. Owing to this failure of the Mere the sewers were not properly flushed, and the manholes became most offensive. I have again to press upon you the reduction of the area of the Mere by one half, and the deepening and cleansing of the remainder so that you may have a continuous supply and a better head of water for flushing purposes, and at the same time take away much unnecessary moisture from neighbouring houses. The sewers require several additional ventilating shafts.

Some time ago you sanctioned the making of experimental borings to ascertain the most likely site for public wells—with what result I have not heard.

I note that Inspector Oke speaks of the perfunctory manner in which the scavenger carries out his contract, that he allows night-soil to accumulate near the village, and neglects to provide a site for deposit of night-soil and refuse at a suitable distance from the place, and away from frequented roads. This is a very important matter—the *raison d'être* for appointing a public scavenger is to get the night-soil removed from the immediate proximity of dwelling houses frequently and regularly—and to ensure this being done the contractor should be kept rigidly to the specifications in his contract.

I have during 1893 gone about in the District a great deal and hope that my work will be of benefit, and sooner or later show fruit in the improvement of the health of the District as a whole and in the increased health and strength of the individual inhabitant. The natural advantages enjoyed are many, and with a little judicious sanitary supervision the artificial conditions under which most of the inhabitants gain their livelihood may be made as favourable to health and longevity as the environment provided by nature.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM A. WETWAN, M.R.C.S. Eng.

M.O.H.

To the Board of Guardians and Rural Sanitary Authority, Bridlington.



TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

BRIDLINGTON RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

SIR,—

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report as Inspector of Nuisances for the year ended 31st December 1893.

As my appointment dates from the 1st of May last my report is for the last eight months of the year as laid down in the orders of the Local Government Board relating to my office.

Since my appointment I have systematically inspected the District—traversing a considerable part of it—and on receiving notice of the ex-

istence of any nuisance, or irregularity of water supply have immediately visited the places notified and investigated the matter complained of, having made in this way 46 journeys of inspection. The nuisances complained of have mainly consisted of filthy piggeries, choked drains and loaded cesspools, accumulations of manure &c. and have generally been remedied on my verbal notification, and so account for the very small number brought before the Authority.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—During the very hot and dry summer the supply of drinking water has been deficient in the parishes of Flamborough and Thwing—in the latter failing entirely for a short time—during which a supply was carted into the village from the neighbouring parish of Wold Newton.

**CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT, 1886.**—There are 27 Cowsheds and Dairies on the Register showing an increase of 19, the whole of which I have visited and found in a fairly satisfactory condition.

**FLAMBOROUGH DRAINAGE.**—During the summer months the supply of water for flushing the sewers failed and a good deal of complaint was made of the stench emanating from the sewer man-holes. There are several lots of property which have yet to be connected with the main sewers.

**HOUSE SCAVENGING.**—The Contractor has not complied with the terms of the Specification and provided a depôt for night-soil, ashes, domestic refuse, &c. at a sufficient distance from dwellings—to the inconvenience and annoyance of those living near the place where he has deposited the refuse.

#### TABLE OF NUISANCES REPORTED TO AUTHORITY.

Liquid from Ash-midden percolating through the wall of a Slaughter-house ... ..	1
Ditches containing offensive matter ... ..	3
Farm-yard drainage finding its way under foundations of Dwelling-house ... ..	1
Accumulation of Manure ... ..	1
Absence of drainage of Dwelling-house and Outbuildings... ..	2
Drainage from Dwelling-house and Outbuildings choked. ... ..	1
Overcrowding... ..	2
	—
	11

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

R. J. Oke,

Inspector of Nuisances.

W. A. Wetwan, Esq., Medical officer of Health.



